

Achievement Award

ASSEMBLYMAN CRAIG STANLEY

**DEMOCRAT
28th Legislative District**



Craig Stanley was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly on November 7, 1995 to represent the 28th Legislative District in Essex County.

A native of Newark, Mr. Stanley, attended 18th Avenue School and Dayton Street School and graduated from Arts High School. Craig was awarded an American Field Service Exchange Student Scholarship and completed his senior year in Switzerland. Active in extra-curricula activities, Craig was introduced to politics at an early age through his involvement in the Newark YMWCA's Youth and Government Program.

Mr. Stanley attended the University of Hartford and earned a bachelor's degree in political science. After graduating, he worked in the private sector for several years, serving as Western Region Sales Administrative Manager at Wang Laboratories in Lowell, Mass. where he was responsible for the administration of \$420 million dollars in annual sales.

Mr. Stanley returned to Newark to work with a black-owned manufacturing company where he felt he could put his experience to use and give back to his community. He reestablished his connection with the Newark YMWCA Youth and Government Program and served as its advisor. In 1990, he took over the program as its coordinator and founded the Greater Newark/Irvington YMWCA Youth and Government delegation at Irvington High School. Currently he is the director of corporate programs for the YMWCA of Newark and Vicinity, and the director of the New Jersey Black Achievers Program.

Craig Stanley also has worked as a research assistant in the New Jersey Assembly Democrat's office and as an aide to the Speaker Pro Tem. As a legislative aide, he played a major role in ushering veteran's initiatives through the Legislature. In addition, he helped bring hearings on the plight of families of Desert Storm veterans to Newark and throughout the state. Mr. Stanley also worked as a legislative analyst with the Department of Environmental Protection and legislative liaison to the Board of Public Utilities.

Mr. Stanley has served as a district leader in Irvington for nine years, and currently serves as North Ward Chairman of the Irvington Democratic Committee. He is the founder and president of the Association for Community Empowerment.

In addition, Craig is active in his church, Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church in Newark, where he is a trustees' aide and a Walking Deacon. He also is a member of the NAACP.

Craig Stanley is married and has three children: Camille, 20; Christina, 9; and Cathryn, 7. His wife, Debra, is a substitute teacher.

Community Service Award

PHILIP S. THOMAS



As Vice President for Arts Education for the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Philip Thomas is currently responsible for developing a comprehensive program in this area which will benefit the many recipients of this new statewide

attraction. The Center, scheduled to open in 1997 on a 12-acre site in downtown Newark, will house a 2,750 seat concert hall, 500 seat playhouse, two restaurants, a gift shop, an outdoor performance plaza, and banquet, rehearsal and meeting rooms.

Mr. Thomas has extensive experience as a producer and administrator of performing arts programs and special events with a professional background in organizational management, marketing and fundraising. He was previously Artistic Director of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation; a multi-disciplinary arts organization located in Newark. During his 7 years of leadership, he administered a national touring program, presented an annual statewide performing arts series, and coordinated arts education programs in local school districts.

At the Carter G. Woodson Foundation, Mr. Thomas' primary objective was to increase performances, audiences and earned income opportunities for artists, while providing national audiences with greater access to the rich and varied creative expressions in African-American theater, dance, music and literature.

Mr. Thomas is a theater graduate of Montclair State University and in 1976 served as a fellow in the Expansion Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts. He has also worked with the Negro Ensemble Company, Paterson Arts Council, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Newark Board of Education, and Newark Symphony Hall.

Currently, Mr. Thomas serves on the boards of the Carter G. Woodson Foundation and the New Jersey Black Issues Convention, and is a member of the Steering Committee for One New Jersey.